

adequate to the burden imposed, and can be abolished without detriment to the general government; therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

That our senators and representatives in congress be, and they are hereby requested at as early a day as practicable, to procure such an amendment of the revenue laws of the United States, as will permit the importation of all text books free of duty.

Resolved, That they be requested to procure, if practicable, an amendment of the laws of copyright, so far as such laws relate to text books, in such manner that combination between the holder of copyright and publisher, or holders of other copyright, shall forfeit the privileges conferred by those laws; and the establishment of which combination shall authorize thereafter the free use of such publications.

Resolved, That the secretary of state be, and is hereby directed to furnish a copy of these resolutions to each of our senators and representatives in congress.

Approved March 2, 1874.

NUMBER XVII.

JOINT RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF A PRELIMINARY SURVEY OF THE COUNTRY BETWEEN ST. CROIX FALLS AND UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, AND LAKE SUPERIOR, WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING WATER COMMUNICATION BY CANAL AND LOCKS AND DAMS, BETWEEN THE NAVIGABLE WATERS OF SAID RIVERS AND LAKE.

WHEREAS, Free water communication with the markets of the world is the first great necessity for the successful prosecution of agriculture in the state of Minnesota, and will continue to be the principal resource of the people from the exactions of the railroad corporations; and

WHEREAS, In the Mississippi river and its tributaries, permeating the greater part of the state with water courses either navigable or susceptible of being made navigable for steam boats, barges or canal boats, we have a water system capable of being used to great advantage by the people; and in the chain of great lakes and the

St. Lawrence river, we have the means of water communication between the shores of Minnesota and the sea-ports of Europe; and

WHEREAS, It is of the utmost importance to our state that the navigable waters of the Mississippi valley and the great lakes should be united at the point where they most nearly approach each other, so that the greater part of our grain fields should be placed in water communication with the external world; and

WHEREAS, The navigable waters of the St. Croix river are but about sixty feet above those of lake Superior, and the entire distance between them is but eighty-four miles, and this distance is made up, in great part, of the St. Croix river above the falls of St. Croix, and of other small streams having a general north and south direction, and capable of being improved, with small outlay, by means of locks and dams, so as to render them navigable for canal boats, while a distance of but a few miles would have to be overcome by the construction of a canal; and

WHEREAS, The navigable waters of the Upper Mississippi are believed to be at about the same level and navigable to within a few miles of the tributaries of lake Superior; and

WHEREAS, Such a canal would be constructed across a summit level filled with lakes, swamps and streams, and therefore furnishing all the water required for canal purposes, and through drift materials easily worked, and in a region furnishing abundant timber for the necessary works; and

WHEREAS, Such a canal, in conjunction with said water courses, would furnish a means of communication between the Mississippi river and the great lakes, five hundred miles shorter than the Fox and Wisconsin river improvements, which diagonally cross the entire state of Wisconsin; therefore,

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

That our senators and representatives in congress be requested to use their influence to secure a preliminary survey of the region in question, and of the two routes, with a view to the construction of such a canal, and the improvement of said water courses, on condition that said canal and navigable streams shall forever remain under the control of the United States government, with the right of the people to the free use of the same, subject to such toll or charge as may be necessary to keep said works in repair and pay the actual expenses of operating the same.

Approved March 2, 1874.